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Message Text

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70
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /101 W
---------- 127875
R 112307Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 003

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1155

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MX
SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH COLUMNIST RE ATTACK ON RABASA AS "CHAMPION OF KISSINGERISM"

REF: MEXICO CITY 1012

1. AS I HAVE KNOWN SAMUEL DEL VILLAR FOR SOME YEARS DUE TO HIS OCCASIONAL COVERAGE OF THE OAS WHILE AT HARVARD AND IN VIEW OF REF ARTICLE, I ASKED DEL VILLAR AND HIS WIFE TO VISIT US AT THE RESIDENCE. I CHIDED HIM IN A FRIENDLY FASHION AT THE TONE OF HIS ARTICLE, POINTING OUT THAT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND RABASA WAS MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS, AND MEXICO WAS THE GAINER AS IT GAVE IT A UNIQUE CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION WHICH BENEFITED MEXICO, THE HEMISPHERE AND THE CAUSE OF PEACE. DEL VILLAR AT FIRST MAINTAINED THAT ONLY ADVANTAGE REAPED BY MEXICO WAS THE "MEANINGLESS" LOCATION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING HERE. HE SAID HE HAD ALREADY HAD HIS EARS PULLED BACK BY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES BUT WAS A BIT FLIP. THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN ORDER TO STRESS THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH HIS ARTICLE IS REGARDED, I SPOKE TO DEL VILLAR AGAIN ALONG THE SAME LINES. HE WAS CONSIDER-ABLY MORE SOBER IN HIS REACTION AND TOLD ME HE QUITE UNDERSTOOD OUR POINT OF VIEW AND APPRECIATED BY HAVING GOTTEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM SPECIFICALLY ON THIS MATTER.

2. IN A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER
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GALLASTEGUI, HE TOLD ME THAT RABASA HAD PHONED HIM FROM EUROPE

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EXPRESSING CONCERN AS TO THE EFFECT OF THE DEL VILLAR ARTICLE ON
HIS LOCAL IMAGE. I TOLD HIM OF MY CONVERSATION WITH DEL VILLAR
AND SUGGESTED HE ALSO SPEAK TO HIM.
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